



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

April 13, 2020

AL TSA: NH #2020-020
SHARING OF INFORMATION FOR THE UNITED STATES CENSUS

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government conduct a census of the population every ten years. United States households and long-term care facilities should have received census questionnaires in March.

Everyone living in the United States is required by law to be counted in the census. While some of the demographic information requested on the census is considered personal health information, filling out of the census is not prohibited by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy requirements. HIPAA requirements allow for disclosure of this information without a resident's authorization. The laws that require the census also protect the confidentiality of that information, and the information gathered can only be used to produce statistics.

2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19

To protect the health and safety of staff and the public and ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities, the Census Bureau is adapting or delaying some of their operations. The link below outlines the most current schedules including, but not limited to, extending the group quarters (including nursing homes) response deadline to June 19, extending the online response deadline to August 14, and extending the self-response phase deadline to August 14. Please follow the link below for more details and the most current updates.

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (509) 209-3088 or Lisa.Herke@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"